

Message Text

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ORIGIN NODS-00

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DRAFTED BY EA/K:RGRICH, JR.:JCM
APPROVED BY EA:RHOLBROOKE
S/S:PTARNOFF

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 208144

NODIS
CHEROKEE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, KS, US

SUBJECT: TRANSMITTAL OF CONGRESSIONAL QUESTIONNAIRES

REF: SEOUL 7183

1. WITH REGARD TO KOREAN OPENNESS TO RECEIVING
CLARIFYING QUESTIONS AFTER KIM DONG-JO'S INITIAL RESPONSES,
YOUR MEETING WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER APPEARS TO HAVE
GONE QUITE WELL. IT IS MOST TROUBLING HOWEVER, THAT AT
THIS LATE JUNCTURE THE ROKG HAS STILL NOT LINED UP KIM'S
CLEAR COMMITMENT TO RESPOND IN THE MANNER WE REQUIRE.

2. AS YOU POINT OUT, AN IMMEDIATE PROBLEM IS WHETHER
DELAYS WILL NOW ENSUE BEFORE THE ROKG OFFICIALLY RECEIVES
THE CONGRESSIONAL MATERIAL. YOU SHOULD STRESS THAT BEFORE
HIS TRIP TO AFRICA THE FOREIGN MINISTER ASKED THAT THE
DELIVERY OF THE QUESTIONS BE DEFERRED UNTIL AFTER
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AUGUST 12 WHEN HE COULD PERSONALLY DEAL WITH THE MATTER.
WE AGREED TO DO SO. BOTH HOUSES OF CONGRESS HAVE NOW
OFFICIALLY CONVEYED THEIR QUESTIONS TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR
TRANSMITTAL TO THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT. IF THIS DELIVERY
IS NOT MADE BY THE END OF THIS WEEK, SERIOUS QUESTIONS
WILL BEGIN TO ARISE REGARDING THE ROKG'S EXPECTED
COOPERATION AND PERHAPS ENTIRELY UNNECESSARY NEGATIVE

REACTIONS WILL BEGIN TO EMERGE ON THE HILL.

3. WHILE WE HAD ANTICIPATED THAT A WEEK OR MORE WOULD BE REQUIRED FOR ANSWERS TO BE PREPARED TO THE CONGRESSIONAL QUESTIONS, IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT WE PROCEED WITH MINIMUM DELAY AND DELIVER THE MATERIAL TO THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT AS REQUESTED BY THE CONGRESS.

4. THEREFORE, BY FRIDAY AT THE LATEST, AND EVEN IF PROCEDURAL ASPECTS ARE STILL UNDER DISCUSSION, YOU SHOULD PROCEED TO DELIVER YOUR FIRST PERSON NOTE TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER TRANSMITTING THE QUESTIONNAIRES FOR RESPONSE BY KIM DONG-JO. CHRISTOPHER

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